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- a cylindrical support part [with a section circular or not],
- two arms of which one at least is movable along said support part,
- and one substantially elastic buffer secured to one of said two arms at a distance from said support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is [essentially] approximately at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--3. (four times amended) The [A] device of [according to] claim 2 [, wherein] in which said at least one substantially elastic buffer comprises a ring which is covering part of said arm to which it is secured.

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--4. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2 [for overlapping] wherein to said two arms are added two other movable arms so that they could overlap, all of said movable arms [can be turned] being furthermore turnable around said support part into at least two directions and each of all of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffers of two first of said four arms along said support part could have their contact faces facing the contact faces of the buffers of the two other said arms.

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--5. (five times amended) A device according to claim 4 [for being used as a helping hand], wherein to said four arms is added one pair of successive movable arms along said support part so that said device could be used as a vertical helping hand, each of these arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffer of each of said successive movable arms could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other successive arm.

Sub n° 4-5
--6. (five times amended) A device according to claim 2 [for being used as a horizontal helping hand], wherein to said two arms are added successively two pairs of movable arms along said support part so that said device could be used as a horizontal helping hand, those pairs of movable arms being furthermore turnable around said support part into at least two directions, and each of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part so that the buffer of any arm for each of said two pairs could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other arm of same pair.

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--9. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which [supports] holds other [another] support parts parallel to [that of] the first said support part, each of said [another] other support parts carrying at least two arms, of which one at least is movable, and of which one [at least] is provided with one substantially elastic buffer.

Sub n° 8
--10. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which [supports] holds another support part in [at least] one direction distinct from that of the first said

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support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm provided with a one substantially elastic buffer and another coupler.

Sub n° 10
--12. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part is made of several parallel beams which are distributed so that no said substantially elastic buffer could be aligned with any two of those beams. [The method of using a device including a cylindrical support part, with a section circular or not, and two arms of which one at least is movable along said support part, one at least of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is essentially at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, comprising the steps of:

- a) applying said buffer against a resistant surface,
- b) exerting on the back of those of said arms which are movable along said support part a manual thrust,
- c) stopping this thrust, so as to lock those of said arms which are movable by tilting against said support part.]

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--13. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein said substantially elastic buffer is split up into several pieces so that no one of said pieces could be aligned with any two of those beams.

[The method according to claim 12, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is essentially at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring.]

--14. (Twice amended) A device according to claim 13, wherein the arm upon which is secured said substantially elastic buffer is itself split up into several blocks each carried by one or several of said beams.

[The method according to claim 12, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is essentially at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring.]

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--15. A device according to claim 2, wherein the connexion between the support part and each of those of said arms which are movable along said support part is made by a stirrup.

--16. The method of using a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms of which one at least is movable along said support part, one

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at least of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, comprising the steps of:

- a) applying said substantially elastic buffer against some resistant surface,
- b) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,
- c) stopping this thrust so as to lock those of said arms which are movable by tilting against said support part.

--17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, further comprising the steps of:

- d) applying every substantially elastic said buffer against some resistant surface,
- e) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,
- f) stopping this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own support part.

--18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a so large thickness that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging, further comprising the steps of:

- d) applying every substantially elastic said buffer against some resistant surface,
- e) exerting on the back of said arms a manual thrust,
- f) stopping this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own support part.